

2002 Public Act 682

Family Court Plan Requirements

1. Requires a separate family court plan (plan) for a probate court district that includes counties located in different circuits¹. [MCL 600.1011(1)]
2. Requires that the plan provide that a judge's service in the family division be consistent with the goal of developing judicial expertise in family law. [MCL 600.1011(3)]
3. Requires that the chief circuit judge have the authority and flexibility to determine the duration of a judge's service pursuant to the plan in furthering the goal of developing judicial expertise in family law. [MCL 600.1011(3)]
4. Permits that, when a judge's service pursuant to the plan ends, pending cases are to be reassigned to another family division judge or are to be resolved by that judge. [MCL 600.1011(5)]
5. Requires that the plan specifically identify any probate judge serving pursuant to the plan. [MCL 600.1011(6)]
6. Requires that a plan be reviewed and revised periodically, as necessary, by the chief circuit and probate judge(s). [MCL 600.1011(7)]

Additional Issues Identified in PA 682

1. Provides that MJI will provide training for judges serving pursuant to the plan. [MCL 600.1019]
2. Provides that probate judges serving pursuant to the plan have the same power and authority as circuit judges in family division matters within that county/circuit, in addition to powers and authority of a judge of probate court. [MCL 600.1021(3)]

¹ As of 4/1/03, applies only to Emmet/Charlevoix Probate Court, which is in the 33rd and 57th Judicial Circuits.